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him, retained him as his chaplain after he got on shore, and offered him a magistrate's commission.

Having undertaken his duties at the place of his destination with zeal and resolution, and attended to them with diligence and perseverance, he had the heartfelt satisfaction of finding, that his endeavours met with success, and, in a short time, of witnessing the church becoming too small for the congregation. In the autumn of 1811 the edifice was considerably enlarged, in order to make room for the poor, which, soon after his arrival, he had pointed out to the Governor as necessary; and of its utility Government were, on a representation, so convinced, that they supplied 250*l.* for the purpose. When the improvements were completed, which was in December 1812, the church had become a spacious building, 90 feet long by 48 wide, with four rows of seats below, and galleries all round, and in the body was a pew, with rising seats, sufficiently large to contain 60 persons, appropriated to the use of the poor, who availed themselves of it the first Sunday after it was opened, and it continued without being ever empty afterwards during divine service. As a proof that the church was not unnecessarily enlarged, nor Mr. Rowland unsuccessful in his labours, 23 new pews were sold in one day for upwards of 38*l.* each pew, and the whole of them might have been disposed of at the same rate, had not the remainder been reserved, at his request, to be let for an annual rent to such families as found it inconvenient to purchase, or were not likely to remain any length of time at the place.

[*To be continued.*]

R.

TOPOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

—o—o—o—

PARISH OF LLAN-SILIN, IN THE COUNTY OF DENBIGH.

[*Continued from the last Number.*]

§ 4. **ROADS.**—The by-roads of this parish, of many miles extent, as those of other parishes alike circumstanced, are extremely inconvenient. Two turnpike roads, leading from Oswestry to the village, are in moderate repair; and from thence they unite, and proceed to join, at Llan Gedwyn, the main road from Shrewsbury, through Knockin and Llan Gynog, to Bala, Dolgellau, &c.

Thus far about Welsh roads: The Roman Watling street, leading from Rutunium * to Mons Erii † and Segontium ‡, according to modern writers, passed through the skirt of this parish; and the long lost Mediolanum has been fixed within the township of Sycharth. Sir Richard C. Hoare, Bart. in preparing his splendid edition of Giraldus Cambrensis's Topography of Wales—not satisfied with the conclusions and surmises of Leland, Camden, Gale, Stukely, Horsley, &c. who had placed Mediolanum according to their respective fancies, some at Meivod, some at Llan Fyllin, some at Drayton, and others in a point between the two former places, where, according to a mathematical hypothesis, the southern Watling street above mentioned, and the Via Devana from Nidum § to Deva ||, necessarily crossed each other,—became persuaded, upon well grounded reasons, that the lost Roman station lay considerably more northward than either Meivod or Llan Fyllin ¶. Directed by this opinion, he made three successive journies from Stour-Head into the Vale of the Tanat, which he explored attentively and anxiously, but without success. This brought Sir Richard to the *dernier resort* of concluding, that the rapid Tanat had, in the course of ages, destroyed every vestige of the station. The Editors of the “*Beauties of England and Wales*” could not be satisfied with such a disappointment; they therefore cut the Gordian knot, which Sir Richard had so anxiously, though unsuccessfully, endeavoured to untie. They cry “*Ecce Mediolanum!*” at Pen y Bont, the extremity of the southern wing of this parish, upon the junction of the Cynllaith with the Tanat. This is the spot fixed upon in the body of the work, but in the map of the stations, &c. prefixed, Mediolanum is not put down at Pen y Bont, but at Clawdd Coch, several miles to the south-east, and in the Denbighshire part of the parish of Llanymyneich. The late learned Mr. Peter Roberts had viewed this spot, and would fain insist, in conversation, that it was the identical spot where Mediolanum once quartered the legions of ambitious Rome. I am not aware, that he ever committed his opinion to paper; however, the Editors of the *Beauties* caught the flying report. I had myself, some years before, been rather sanguine on the subject; and, in consequence of pre-conceived ideas, hastened to Clawdd Coch full of expectations. When I arrived, I found, fortunately, a team in the field plough-

* Rowton near Shrewsbury.

† Tommen y Mur, near Tan y Bwleth.

‡ Near Caernarvon.

§ Neath in Glamorganshire.

|| Chester, on the Dee.

¶ See Cambrian Reg. vol. i. p. 126.—Ed.

ing; and the farmer declared, that he had seen the piece ploughed and harrowed occasionally for upwards of forty years past, but had never seen nor heard of any Roman relics, coins, brick, or utensils, the indispensable accompaniments of Roman stations. The site, it must be confessed, is very promising, when viewed at a distance from some adjacent eminence; being such as might be imagined to have caught the attention of a Roman engineer, as it is on the most eligible line of road from Rutunium to Mill-dir-Geryg, Tram y Sarn, Bala, &c.—on a table land elevation, and near the angle of junction of the Tanat and Vyrnwy. Some Welsh chieftain had built a mansion on the spot, called Careg-Hwva Castle, which was demolished about the beginning of the 13th century; and, being apparently built of wood, though in the country of stone and marble, not the least vestige of the building, not a cinder, now remains; a foss, to guard the most accessible approach on the east, being the only index left. From these data I am led to conclude, that Mediolanum is still among the *terræ incognitæ*.

§. 5. WATER.—The river Tanat bounds the southern, and the mountain torrent, Ceiriog, rushes through the northern wing of the parish. The native streams are the Gwenlas *, Gwenflrwd, Ogwy, and Nant-gwy; these, uniting, form the rivulet Cynllaith, which formerly gave name to the commote, the lordship, and the deanry. This stream, taking its course southward, soon mingles its water with that of the Tanat, near the ancient mansion of Glan Cynllaith (Pen y Bont) on the borders of the counties of Montgomery and Salop. Llyn Moelfre is a lake of about one mile in circumference, situate at the foot of the western escarpment of Gwrn Moelfre, a prominent feature of the parish, to be noticed in the following section. The lake seems to have been originally formed by an avalanche from the adjoining escarpment, which by its fall dammed the rivulet, and caused the body of stagnant water now under consideration. It is stocked with carp and pike, and is the property of the lord of the manor of Cynllaith Owain.

§. 6. MOUNTAINS.—Gwrn Moelfre stands on the northern side of the oval basin of Silin, on the verge of the parish of Llan Gadwaladr. It is perfectly isolated, having no connection with any other eminence; which makes its pyramidal head conspicuous

* “Gwenlas, near Rhyd Lios,”—called Cennin in the Charter of Chirk. Gwenlas also is the name of the Rhaiadr before it rushes down the cataract called Pistyll Rhaiadr.

to most places in Montgomeryshire. Its elevation, at its western extremity, where it seems to hang nearly in a precipice over Moelfre lake, is 1714 feet. From this apex its outline forms a regular inclined plane of about 7000 feet, in an eastern direction, until it loses itself in the plain. The body of the mountain consists of a schistose shale, having some sand in its composition; with some masses of more indurated and amorphous grey mountain rock. The summit is covered with heath (*crica*) growing upon an useless peat soil. The sides and lower parts afford excellent summer pasture for sheep and store cattle. From its peak may be enjoyed a most varied and extensive view. Among the nearer objects, to the south-east, and south, appear the limestone hills of Sychdin and Pentre' Gaer, and the silicious rocks of Sycharth, exhibiting the peculiar boldness, which forms their characteristic feature: to the south and west the uniformly tame and grassy hills covering the shady strata: to the north the dreary range of the Berwyn group. At some little distance appears Cader Verwyn, its loftiest summit within the slate tract, which by Furnival's map is of the height of . 2563 feet.

To the S. W. Pumlumon, . . . 2463

To the S. Cern Digoll, . . . 1330

To the S. Rodney's Pillar *, . . . 1199

To the S. E. the Shropshire Wrekin . . . 1320

The Broxton Hills and Beeston Castle, in Cheshire, close the scene to the east.

The vale of Silin is not to be viewed to advantage from the summit; but in descending, about half-way, it exhibits a scene not frequently equalled. The accompaniments wanting, to render it truly picturesque, are more wood and water: the lake of Moelvre being behind the curtain.

§ 7. Of ANCIENT MONUMENTS we have but few. On ascending from Sycharth, the celebrated mansion of Owain Glyndwr, to Mynydd y Bryn, we come to a part of it called Craig y Caws. According to Camden, Michael's Mount in Cornwall was anciently called by the inhabitants Careg Cowse; which he interpreted "hoary rock," but how justly, we must leave the critics in the Cornish tongue to decide. Under Craig y Caws, to the south-east, are seven or eight *carneddau*, or heaps of loose stones; and at a little distance are as many more: and in the centre, between them, is a perfect circle of loose stones, about 40 paces in

* On the Bre-ddin.

diameter; the area perfectly level, without any traces of additional stones within. On inquiry, we found, by one peasant, that the name of the circle was Buarth y Geini; and by another, Buarth y Geivr; either of which may afford a precious "morsel of criticism" for the ingenious mythologist. These monuments are in the siliceous tract; and on an eminence above Pentre' y Gaer we found Caer Rhuddwyn, an ancient camp, surrounded with a rampart of loose limestone, inclosing several acres. Within its area is a mound of earth, &c. called Bedd y Cawr (the Giant's Grave). Its dimensions may be learned from the following odd advertisement by Mr. "William Maurice *Llansilensis*," in the year 1678:—"An unheard of morrice dance is to be celebrated on the grave mount of Rhuddwyn Gawr Mawr, a Kymmerian giant, of sixty feet in length, and nine in height above the ground, by Marsti Hen, aged 140." Llyn Rhuddwyn is a lake of considerable dimensions, close under the encampment. Still eastward lieth Caer Myvyr, a similar rampart of loose sand-stone, inclosing about three acres. There is nothing Druidic in the appearance of these two monuments; they are simply camps, and relics of the rude mode of warfare used by the *aborigines* of the island. Among the answers to Mr. Ed. Lloyd's parochial queries, in the year 1699, there is a Welsh letter from the parish of Oswestry, enumerating three of these camps:—"Clawdd ceryg ym mhen Caer Myvyr, un arall ym mhen Tre y Gaer, a'r trydydd yn y Pant caregog yng Nghraig Vordav." In the fairy tales of yore there is a triad of giants, who were brothers: 1. Cawr Myvyr—2. Cawr Rhuddwyn—3. Cawr Berwyn. We have described the camps of the two former personages, but, where the third pitched his tent, we do not know.

In the township of Rhiwlas, there is a stone of considerable magnitude, which was formerly stiled Maen Tysilio. It was used to be the rallying point of the strong and the active from several parts, in order to strive for superiority in their rural olympics of the *Saith Gwrol Camp*. The times are changed; and the name of the spot has been converted into Pant Tysilio. In 1699 there was a well in the parish of Oswestry, called Ffynnon Maen Tysilio, where the inhabitants resorted, to celebrate their annual wake.

§. 8. ANCIENT HOUSES—MEN OF NOTE, &c.—I now come to the historical account of the mansion houses of this parish, which some centuries ago were the residences either of warlike chieftains, or of the liberal patrons of the tuneful Bards. In an alphabetical

order they may be arranged thus :—1. Glasgoed—2. Lloran—3. Moelvre—4. Moel-iwrch—5. Plas-newydd, or Bodlith—and, 6. Sycharth. All these, excepting the latter, are still standing, though not in their original state. In order to render this subject more intelligible, it may be proper to take, cursorily, a retrospective view of former times, commencing with the occurrences of the eleventh century,—when

“ Bladdyn ab Cynvyn, bob cŵys,
Ei hun bioedd hen Bowys.”

This Prince was slain in the year 1073; and his son Meredydd eventually took possession of the whole principality of Powys, which he divided before his death, in 1132, into two moieties :—Powys Vaelawr, or the eastern, north of the river Tanat, to his son Madog; and Powys Gyveiliog, or the western, south of the Tanat, to his grandson Owain Cyveiliog. According to the customary usage of gavel-kind, Madog again divided his moiety into six parts, amongst as many sons. The lot of his son Einion, surnamed Evell, or the twin, fell in Cynllaith, a lordship, of which this parish of Silin formed the greater part. The residence of Einion is said to have been at Llwyn-y-Maen in the adjoining parish of Oswestry. He died in 1196, and was succeeded by his son Rhun; and he by his son Cuhelyn. We are informed by two verses, still extant, that in the year 1230 this Cuhelyn rebuilt the mansion-house of Lloran Ucha in this parish. These verses are attributed * to Einion ab Gwalchmai, a celebrated Bard of the isle of Anglesey; but he seems to be too early for the period in question, and especially for the construction of this species of verse †. Ieva, the son of Cuhelyn, is represented as still residing at Llwyn y Maen; and before his death he gavelled his inheritance between his two sons: Madog Goch had Lloran Ucha and its appendages; and Ieva Vychan, the younger son, according to prescriptive right, had the paternal mansion of Llwyn y Maen. The son of Madog Goch of Lloran was another Madog, surnamed Kyffin, by way of distinction, from a place of that name where he had

* Davies's Heraldry Displayed, 12mo. 1716, p. 36.

† Deuddeg cant rhuzlant rhagflaen—a thri deg
Oedd oed y mab cywrair;
Seiliodd Cuhelyn sylfaen,
Uchel mawr, o galch a maen.
Cododd arlwydd ar lan—dwr Barog
Dy a bery 'r byd allan;
Eurer glod i'r eryr glân
Nudd llwyn y maenadd Lloran.

been nursed *. From him, in after times, numerous families of his descendants assumed the name.† This first of the Kyffins was succeeded by his son Ieuan, surnamed *Gethin* (terrible).—Gethin had four sons, Ieuan Vychan, Morus, Iolyn, and Gruffydd. Of these, and their descendants, I shall treat in the above order of succession.

1. Ieuan Vychan, the eldest, took his residence at Moeliwrch, a house loftily situated on the southern brow of Gwrn Moelvre, within about a mile of the village of Silin; where his descendants continued for several generations, the dispensers of unbounded hospitality, and the liberal patrons of their cotemporary bards.

Hywel, the son of Ieuan Vychan, is the first that I find celebrated in song. His principal bards were Guto y Glyn, and Ieuan Gru. Llywelyn, who flourished from 1400 to 1460. The former has a poem on the re-building of Moeliwrch house, of which he says—

“Cymry a'i gwêl fry, gwâl fraith,
Caer ganlloft y carw o Gynllaith;
Nef im' yw o Naf a main,
Neuadd fel seren Owain.”

This must have been composed subsequently to the year 1402, when the comet alluded to in this couplet appeared, which the bards would have the people believe was a fore-runner of some propitious revolution in the nation under the auspices of their illustrious hero. In another poem the bard says, that he had published the banns of friendship between himself and his hospitable patron at Moeliwrch in thirteen poems, composed, it may be presumed, at thirteen different festivals;—and that though the Abbot David of Llan Egwest (Valle Crusis) had urgently pressed the bard to spend the Christmas with him, yet neither abbot, nor priest, nor bishop, nor pope, should be able to hasten his departure from the hall of Moeliwrch:

“Dw Tad, wedi dau oed hydd,
A'th briodes â'th brydydd,
Rhoi 'n dystion, rhan dwy osteg,
Ydd wyf dri chywydd ardddeg;
** Y mae deupen carennydd
Y rh'om, nad awn byth yn rhydd;

* Kyffin, a township in the parish of Llan Galdan, Montgomeryshire.

† Richard Vaughan, son of Sir Richard Vaughan, of Golden Grove, created Earl of Carbery by Charles I., was lineally descended from Madoz Kyffin in the eighth degree.

Er bod rh'of ar abad draw,
 Ammodau i ymadaw;
 Nid micar a'n hysgar ni,
 Na brawd a wnae briodi;
 Nid esgob, enw dewisgair,
 Nid Pab, onid Mab Mair."

Hywel's successor was his son Ieuan, whose bard, Hywe Kilan, flourished from 1460 to 1490.

Ieuan's son was Llywelyn o Foeliwrch, more popular among the Bards than any of his predecessors. Deio ab Ieuan Bwl addresses a poem to him in behalf of a friend for a brace of greyhounds, in which he is stiled,

"Llew o fewn maes, â'r llafrn main,
 A thëyrn Cynllaith Owain."

Another of Llywelyn's domestic Bards was Ieuan ab Gruffydd Leiav, who wrote from 1500 to 1530.

Llywelyn died about 1534; and, the act for the union of England and Wales (26th Hen. 8th) passing about the same time, a dispute arose between his sons as to the disposition of their father's estate,—the eldest claiming, by the new law, the right of primogeniture; and the youngest insisting upon the gavel-kind division, as directed by the laws of Hywel Dda, and sanctioned by immemorial usage. After much litigation, the case was referred. I have a copy of the bond of arbitration, and the award thereupon, now before me. By the award, Mórús Wynn, the elder son, succeeded to maintain hospitality at the Plâs ym Moeliwrch: Tomas ab Llywelyn, his brother, was to have two tenements in Llys Dynwallon, and at his own cost and charge to divide all the rest of the possessions of their said father, in Cynllaith Owain, Cynllaith yr Iarll, and Careg Hwva, in the lordships of Chirk and Oswestry, or elsewhere, into two equal parts; and Morus Wynn to have his choice of the moieties.—
 "Morus to have a seat in our Lady's chancel within the church of
 "Llan-Silin, and Tomas to have a seat in the same church anynce
 "St. Silin."

Among the bards, who wrote elegies to the memory of Llywelyn, were Morus ab Hywel ab Tudur, and Wiliam Alaw. The latter says—

"Milwr a chawr Moelyrch aeth—
 * * * * *
 Llan a'i dug allan o'i dai,
 Llywelyn—llu a wylai;—***

Mil a wyl am Lywelyn,
 Mae ei ras i'w aer—Morus Wynn.
 Yn ei ol ef, ni wyl iaith
 Fath ganllaw fyth i Gynllaith;
 * * * * *
 Caf sy' waeth—cevais ei win,
 Cerais alarch côr Silin."

The bard mentions four sons, though the award notices only two:—

"Pum mroder—pwy ym Mhrydain
 Ym mraich rhiw, mor wych â rhain?"

He then advises them to agree amicably for their father's possessions, and to abide by a reference to their friends and relations, rather than having recourse to the "glorious uncertainty of the law." Excellent advice!

"Rhoed y broder ar geraint,
 At wŷr eu bro, eu tir a'u braint."

Morus Wynn, having gained the paternal mansion, supported the wonted hospitality without abatement. His bards were Huw Ceiriog—Wiliam Cynwal—Huw Arwystl, and Gruffydd Hiraethog,—who flourished from 1520 to 1580. The latter bard, in going his rounds to Moeliwrch, said—

"Tynnu 'r wyf, tan araf-hynt,
 Treiglo lle bu 'r Guto gynt. ***
 Pawb yno—pob awenydd,
 Yno can bawb, canu bydd!
 Yno gwau cerdd, nid gwiw cêl,
 Tewach na'r Guto i Hywel. (*) ***
 Llew iawn yn cadw llawenydd
 Llan Silyn, Morus Wynn sydd."

Of the hospitable mansion, and the multiplicity of its visitors, Huw Ceiriog says—

"Tŷ mawl a gwin—tŷ aml gyrch,
 Tair mil at dyrrau Moelyrch."

Great was the lamentation when this *last* of the patrons of the Cambrian muse, at Moeliwrch, went to the "bourne from whence no traveller returns."

"Duodd a rhewodd yr hîn—ar Foeliwrch,
 Marfolæth brenhinllin;
 Llu â gwaedd lle y bu gwin,
 Am Forus hael o fro Silin!

M. ab I. ab Dafydd.

(*) Guto y Glyn, about a century before, was the favourite bard of Hywel, who was great-grandfather to Morus Wynn.

Hiraeth trwm alaeth tramawr—y sydd
 I'n synu hyd Faelawr,
 Fyn'd Duw ei hun mewn unawr,
 Ar llewyrch o Foelyrch fawr!"

Gr. ab Gr.

Morus Wynn, for his second wife, married his kinswoman and neighbour, the heiress of the house of Bodlith. Richard, their son, preferring the more sheltered situation of Bodlith, built a new house there, and made it his residence; which he called Plas Newydd. His daughter and heiress Gwenwyvar, a favourite family name, married Foulk Middleton, the seventh son of Richard, governor of Denbigh Castle.

IDRIS.

[*To be continued.*]

SKETCHES OF SOCIETY.

THERE cannot be a doubt, that a minute investigation of the ancient superstitions of Wales would not only be productive of considerable interest in itself, but would also tend to elucidate many particulars respecting the early state of society in this country. Something, indeed, has already been done in this way; but there still remains much to be effected towards a proper accomplishment of the object. This notice of the subject has been suggested by a perusal of the first of the articles, that follow under this head, in which an allusion is made to the several imaginary beings, who formerly occupied a place in the popular creed of our native hills. And, indeed, some remnant of this belief may even now be found in those places, which have been least accessible to the innovating approaches of civilization. Yet, wherever this superstition now exists, it may be presumed to have lost many of the interesting peculiarities characteristic of its primitive state. Above all, the romantic simplicity, which distinguished it when generally acknowledged, can no longer belong to its partial and isolated dominion.

Of all the popular superstitions, formerly prevalent in Wales, the belief in Fairies was perhaps the most singular: and some few particulars, relating to this subject, may form no uninteresting introduction to the following communication.

The modern name of Fairies in Wales is *Tylwyth Têg* or the Fair Family, but who, it should be mentioned, are not generally considered, according to the English notion, as beings of a dimi